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[USSR-Czechoslovakia: The protagonists at Cierna evidently found a formula which will enable them to step back from their direct confrontation.

Czechoslovak President Svoboda's speech to the nation yesterday sketched out the general outlines of the arrangement. He intimated that the Czechoslovak side has gone some way toward meeting Soviet demands for a strengthening of Prague's links with the Warsaw Pact military alliance. The Czech President said that the Russians have, in turn, given their sanction to Czechoslovakia's program of domestic reform.

The deal on the military side could take a variety of forms, including an extended Soviet military presence. If the Soviets have conceded to the Czechoslovaks the right to go ahead with their action program, the cost to the two sides will depend on the concrete meaning of this generalized pledge and how the Soviets carry it out. The Czechoslovaks will have come out of the Cierna meeting fairly well if they have bought a relatively free hand in domestic affairs. It is by no means certain that they have done so.

The Czechoslovaks may also have given the Soviets assurance that they will remain firmly within Moscow's economic orbit.

The average Czechoslovak is likely to greet Svoboda's speech with mingled feelings of relief and regret. President Svoboda probably hopes that the firm warning he issued against anti-Communist and anti-Soviet activity will be sufficient to dampen the national reaction. It is not likely that the small student demonstration which erupted in Prague while Svoboda was speaking will be repeated on any wide scale. Liberals in the regime, however, will be on their guard against further concessions to the Soviets and their allies.

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[The meeting called for Bratislava on 3 August--involving the East Germans, Poles, Hungarians, and Bulgarians in addition to the Soviets and Czechoslovaks--is probably meant to tie down the terms of the Cierna arrangement.

There has been no substantial change in the status of Soviet troops on the Czechoslovak borders. Large Soviet convoys sighted by a US military attaché on 29-30 July in central Czechoslovakia confirm the presence of powerful Soviet combat forces in the country, according to the US Embassy in Prague. The embassy commented that the continued presence of the Soviet troops could conceivably constitute the de facto stationing of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia for an indefinite period. There were additional sightings of Soviet troops in central and eastern Poland on 30 and 31 July. [REDACTED]

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[South Vietnam:]
some sort of enemy offensive activity
may get under way in the Saigon area before long.

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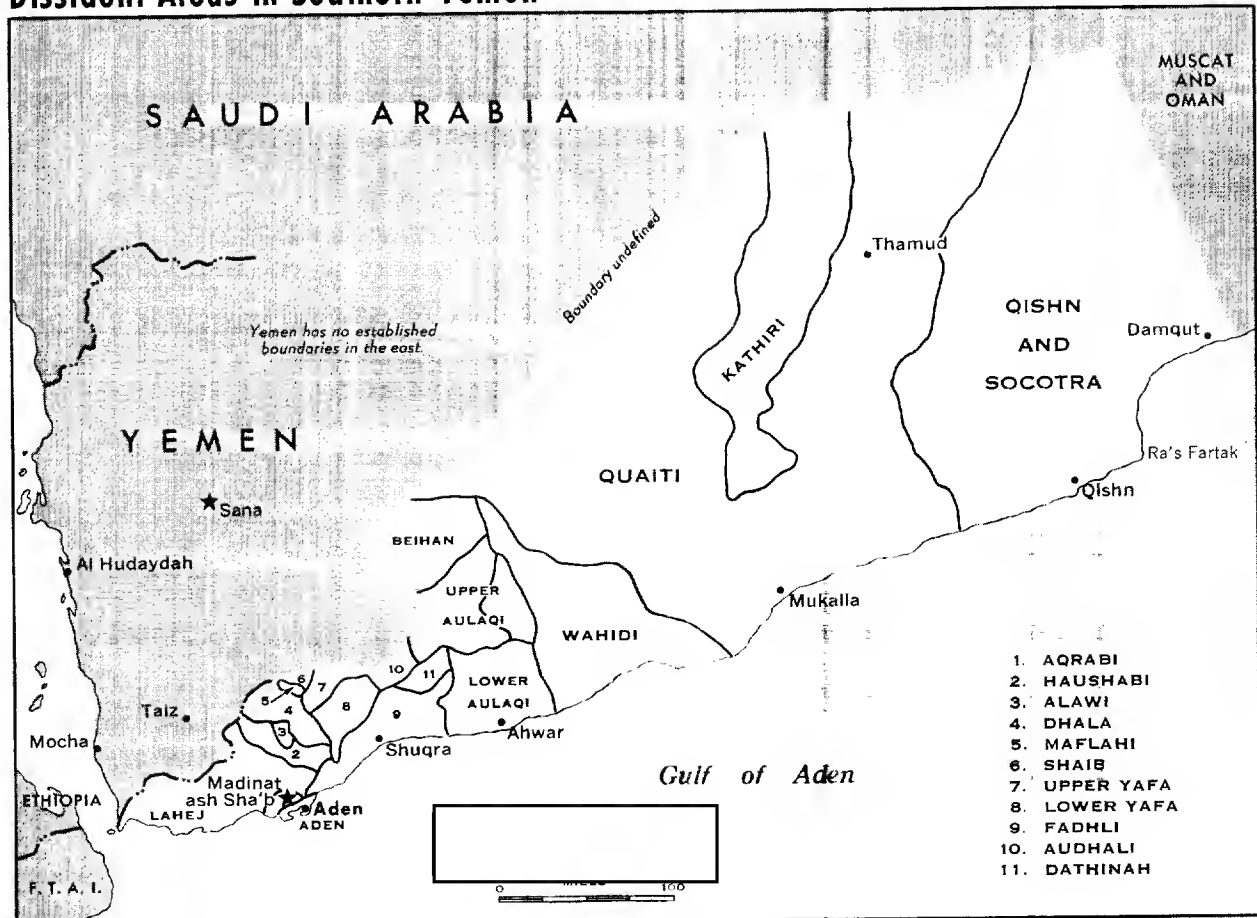
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A move toward the city by at least some of the
main force units now concentrated in northwestern
III Corps probably would precede a major attack in
the Saigon area. At present it seems likely that
the main thrust of any new enemy offensive in this
area in the next week or so would be in northern
III Corps rather than against Saigon. A secondary
effort relying mainly on rocket and mortar attacks
against the city could come at any time.

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Dissident Areas in Southern Yemen



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Southern Yemen: Widespread tribal disturbances are continuing, and the government is blaming the dissidence on US and Saudi intervention.


The security situation in the backcountry remains unclear. The government claims to have completely routed tribal insurgents in Dhala, but sources in Aden allege that fighting still goes on there, as well as in Aulaqi. Outlawed political groups are taking credit for the disturbances and claim that their supporters continue to hold Dhala, Haushabi, and the Aulaqi areas. Other areas also reportedly under the control of dissident tribes may be quiet only because no major army units are on the scene.

Meanwhile, Southern Yemen's security forces have begun to splinter. The director-general of security, leader of a faction which favors a broadly based government, has apparently defected to Yemen, taking with him perhaps 100 security and army officers and men. The government has asked Yemen to return him to Aden.

The regime is apparently convinced that Saudi money and assistance lie behind the disturbances. It has asked the US to intercede and have Saudi Arabia stop aiding dissidents and interfering in Southern Yemen's internal affairs. At the same time, the government may be planning to use the US as a convenient scapegoat if the situation deteriorates. At a recent rally, the labor minister asserted that the disturbances were based on a plan prepared by US intelligence, and public media have repeated the charge. One official privately admitted, however, that the US was not involved in the "Saudi" interference.

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Aden itself is calm, although roving groups of People's Guard have augmented the security forces and many Adenis have reportedly begun to speak openly against the government. Some antiregime comments have begun to appear on the walls. Residents near the capital report hearing heavy gunfire to the north, and some refugees have begun to arrive in Aden suburbs.  (Map)

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Algeria-France: Algeria, claiming dissatisfaction with Soviet military assistance, has solicited increased military aid from France.

In response to requests from Boumediene and the clique of officers who formerly served with the French Army and who now control the Algerian Ministry of Defense, France will cautiously step up training and equipment for the Algerian Air Force and Navy. Both are now almost exclusively equipped with Soviet materiel

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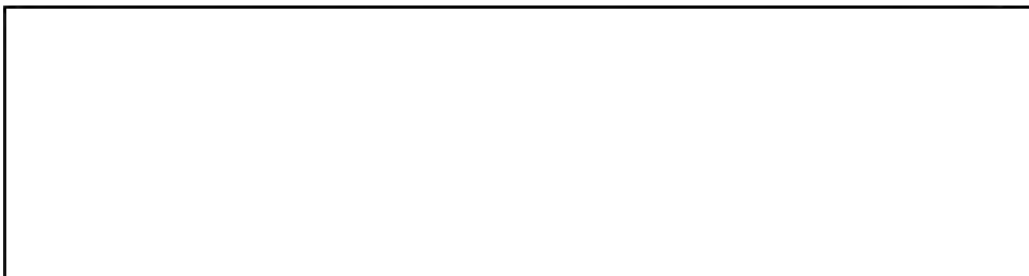
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【Mexico: Government strategy has been effective in gaining at least a temporary lull in the student crisis.

A massive march of students and teachers led by the National University rector in protest against the violation of university autonomy took place with no significant disorder last night. The plan to lend official sympathy in the person of the university rector came out of a "strategy committee" created early in the crisis by Minister of Government Luis Echeverria. Echeverria is a prime contender to succeed President Diaz Ordaz, and his political stock could rise or fall markedly depending on how he handles the current disturbance



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Israel-Jordan: Israel may be setting the stage for another retaliatory strike against Jordan. According to an Israeli Army spokesman, a terrorist ambush yesterday near the Jordan River killed one Israeli soldier and wounded three. The spokesman claimed that the number of such encounters had recently increased. He said that there were 31 incidents last week in which three Israeli soldiers were killed and eight soldiers and seven civilians wounded. The Israelis have again accused Jordanian Army troops of cooperating with the terrorists, suggesting that any reprisal might be aimed at punishing Jordan's Army as well as the terrorists. [REDACTED]

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Africa-France: Paris has taken an important step to ensure a supply of uranium free from both international controls and safeguards against military use. The French Atomic Energy Commission on 17 July signed an agreement with the Central African Republic for the mining of the Bakouma uranium deposits. The Central African Republic will be the third former French African colony to become a uranium supplier for France. Although the Bakouma reserves are believed to be smaller than the exceptionally rich deposits being developed in Niger, production in the Central African Republic may approach that of Gabon, now France's principal supplier. [REDACTED]

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Guatemala: Three rightist political leaders were wounded in Guatemala City yesterday, apparently as part of a Communist plan to set off a vendetta between the ruling party and its major rightist opposition. [REDACTED]

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